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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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IN REPLY REFER TO

AD 867329

AGDA (M) (20 Mar 70) FOR OT UT 694159

27 March 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 41st
Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 41ST SIGNAL BATTALION (CA)
APO 96238

SCCPV-NG-CA-OP

9 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65, (R2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

a. General: The battalion was operational during the entire period of 92 days providing area communications support to U.S. and Free World Forces in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen Provinces, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion's major signal commitments include the operations of one (1) 2000 line dial telephone exchange, one (1) 1000 line dial telephone exchange, two (2) 200 line manual telephone exchanges, thirty (30) VHF systems, four (4) microwave systems, four (4) tropospheric scatter systems, four (4) communications centers, two (2) AUTODIN terminals (one Mode-I and one Mode-V), four (4) technical control facilities, two (2) fixed MARS stations, one (1) HF RATT net, and various missions to include multi-pair cable maintenance in the II CTZ.

b. Activities:

(1) Principle Staff and Command Changes:

(a) Major Donald Lewis assumed duties of battalion executive officer on 23 October 1969 upon the reassignment of Major Humphrey Peterson. On 26 Oct Major Lewis was sent to MACV Saigon for a 3 month period leaving the battalion without an executive officer.

(b) CPT Richard Novotny assumed command of B Company on 16 August 1969 upon reassignment of CPT Richard Hall.

(c) CPT Ronald Edwards assumed command of Headquarters Company on 30 September 1969 upon the reassignment of CPT Jerry Miller.

(d) CPT James Simmons assumed the duties of S-4 Officer on 30 September 1969.

(e) CSM Richard Strong assumed duties as sergoant major on 2 October 1969 upon departure of CSM James Cook.

Inclosure

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(2) Distinguished Visitors:

(a) Brigadier General Albert H. Hunter, CG, Qui Nhon Support Command, visited battalion headquarters on 9 October 1969 and received a briefing on battalion operations and a tour of Qui Nhon DCO and Comm Center.

(b) Brigadier General Jack Albright, DCG, 1st Sig Bde, visited Vung Chua Mountain Signal Site (B Company) on 12 October 1969 primarily to inspect the VCM access road which had been damaged by erosion resulting from heavy rain.

(c) Brigadier General Thomas Rienzi, CG, 1st Sig Bde, visited Company D, 459th on 13 October 1969 to officially outover the Phu Tai Dial Telephone Exchange.

(d) Brigadier General Thomas Rienzi, Brigadier General Godfrey Cheadle, MACV J-6, and other commanders in the Qui Nhon area visited Vung Chua Mountain on 29 October 1969 to participate in a ceremony activating the VCM Tandem Switch.

(3) Awards: The Meritorious Unit Commendation (First Oak Leaf Cluster) was awarded the 41st Signal Battalion by Brigadier General Rienzi in a ceremony at battalion headquarters on 13 October 1969. The award is for outstanding service from 1 October 1967 to 31 August 1968.

(4) Unit Movements: On 14 and 15 August 1969, Company D, 459th Signal Battalion moved from its location at Long My to Phu Tai. This move of approximately five miles took 2 days and occurred without any loss of communications.

c. Personnel:

(1) The following personnel strengths are noted as of 31 October 1969:

	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>% FILL</u>
Officers	34	30	85%
Warrant Off	11	7	64%
Enlisted	974	830	86%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1019</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>85%</u>

(2) The 85% fill of authorized TO&E is a slight increase from the 83% fill reported at the end of last quarter.

(3) The following are critical MOS shortages:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>REQUIRED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>60 DAY LOSS</u>
31M	Rad Rel & Carr	168	195	133	30
32D	Tech Cont Spec	7	19	3	1
51L	Refrig Spec	2	7	2	1

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<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>REQUIRED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>60 DAY LOSS</u>
63 A&B	Vehicle Repair	33	40	16	4
71L	Admin Spec	1	1	1	1
76Y2	Sup Spec	6	6	4	1
76Y3	Armorer	5	5	3	0
76Y4	Sup Sgt	6	6	3	1

(4) For the reporting period this command awarded 23 Bronze Stars, 61 Army Commendation Medals, 3 Purple Hearts, 57 21st Signal Group Certificates of Achievement, and 2 Distinctive Insignia of the Signal Corps - Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

d. Operations:

(1) Radio:

(a) The 261st Signal Company deactivated their ROK North signal site at Van Loc. This site provided VHF communications between 3rd Bn 20th ROK Regt and 20th ROK Regt Hdqts at ROK South. This decrease in mission provided some relief in the area of 31M shortages.

(b) Company D, 459th Signal Battalion deactivated their Binh Thanh and Song Cau VHF sites on 17 Sep 69. Both sites had operated a single VHF system in support of the ROK Tiger Division, 26th Regiment. Deactivation of these two sites decreased the company's operational area and reduced the need for convoys through unsecure areas. Greater economy of critically short 31M personnel also resulted.

(c) Company D, 459th Signal Battalion established a signal site at Van Canh, providing a VHF system to connect ROK 3rd Bn Cav Regt, Tiger Division with ROK Tiger Division Headquarters at Capital. This new site operates on A-band VHF system which has proved reliable on a 15 mile obstructed profile path. In addition, this system has not been plagued by FM interference that is experienced on other A-band systems.

(d) Company B, 43rd Signal Battalion installed an additional VHF system between Phu Cat AFB and Vung Chua Mountain in order to provide additional channels between these locations. Additional channels were needed to augment a 24 channel AN/TRC-97B tropo system which terminates at Phu Cat, with the need for access to VCM patching capabilities.

(2) Telephone and Wire:

(a) On 4 October 1969, the 1000 line dial telephone exchange at Phu Tai was cutover, replacing the old manual telephone exchange. The new exchange has 90 class-A subscribers and 231 class-C subscribers. The exchange has 12 primary trunks to Vung Chua Tandem Switch, 12 secondary trunks to Qui Nhon DCO and 27 ringdown trunks to other switchboards at nearby units. The cutover from manual to dial service was accomplished

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

in a smooth, professional manner. Previous to cutover, new DCO subscriber installations were installed parallel to existing MTE distribution, connected to the same instrument. The DCO termination was temporarily cut-out at protector blocks on the DCO frame. Upon cutover, DCO protectors were activated and the exchange functioned immediately. MTE drops were cut-out the next day.

(b) On 29 Oct 69 the Tandem Switch on Vung Chua Mountain was cutover for operation. The Tandem provides long distance direct dialing capability for class-A phones in the Qui Nhon, Phu Tai, Phu Cat and Tuy Hoa areas. Activation of the Tandem included many on the spot engineering changes which were necessitated by tests following circuit activation. This caused circuit cutovers to initially fall behind schedule, but actual cutover was accomplished on schedule. After activation, difficulties were experienced by Qui Nhon subscribers who had a high percentage of non-completed calls while dialing direct. This was found to have resulted from errors in wiring in the QNH DCO which were corrected five days following cutover. The only remaining problem is a shortage of Tandem trunks to Tan Son Nhut which will be verified by a 30 day traffic study.

(c) The following five cables were placed in operation during the quarter:

08 cable	200 pr.	From Qui Nhon DTE to ICS site 15
08A cable	100 pr.	From Qui Nhon DTE to ICS site 15
08B cable	100 pr.	From Qui Nhon DTE to ICS site 15
09 cable	300 pr.	From Qui Nhon DTE to Vung Chua Mtn frame
09A cable	100 pr.	From Qui Nhon DTE to Vung Chua Mtn frame

(3) Communications Center: Traffic volume of the Qui Nhon Army Comm Center increased during the reporting period due to the deactivation of the Qui Nhon Support Command Comm Center. The facility was able to handle this additional traffic efficiently. New Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment (DSTE) will shortly be received and will be placed in operation in the next 90 days. Elimination of the present high reject rate experience with Mode-V equipment will result.

e. Trainings:

(1) On-the-job training and cross training programs were in effect during the reporting period. OJT was conducted by VHF radio, carrier, mess hall operations, wheeled vehicle repair and other MOS's.

(2) The following are formal schools attended by members of the battalion during the reporting period:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NO OF PERSONNEL</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NO OF PERSONNEL</u>
Systems Control	3	71H Refresher	8
Cable Splicer	5	Tele Key Maint	1
AN/TRC-24 Oper	2	Motor Officer	3
Telephone I&R	8	PLL	1
ICS-SEA Orientation	1		

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f. Intelligence and Security: None

g. Logistics:

(1) The unit supply technician completed his audit of company property books during the quarter. To correct the errors discovered during the audits, instruction was given in proper supply procedures and reports of survey have been initiated. The shortage of supply sergeants (MOS 76Y40) is the major factor in supply problems uncovered by audits.

(2) The battalion electronics maintenance shop established a four man quality assurance team to visit all of the signal sites in the battalion. This team consisting of a team chief, switchboard repairman, radio repairman and teletype repairman visited two companies every month in order to improve the quality of battalion communications. Results of this program include decreased circuit outage frequency and increased circuit quality.

h. Organization: The organizational structure of the 41st Signal Battalion is shown in Inclosure 1. During the last reporting period, the 3rd platoon of the 578th Signal Company was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay and attached to the 73rd Signal Battalion, the 2nd platoon was deployed to Pleiku and attached to the 43rd Signal Battalion, while the 1st platoon remained with the 41st Signal Battalion attached to Co. D, 459th Signal Battalion at Phu Tai. All organic platoon equipment and the individual equipment of the men were moved in July. In preparation for activation of the II CTZ Signal Battalion (Provisional) the headquarters platoon of the 578th Signal Company deployed to Cam Ranh Bay with all equipment on 15 August 1969. Formal activation of the II CTZ Signal Battalion (Provisional) occurred 1 October 1969 thereby relieving the 41st Signal Battalion of responsibility for the 578th Signal Company except for the 1st platoon located at Phu Tai.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. None

b. Intelligence. None

c. Operations.

(1) Cooling Equipment Shelters or Vans

(a) OBSERVATION: It is known that operating equipment mounted in shelters without protection for the shelter results in high heat buildup inside the shelter.

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(b) EVALUATION: It was found that S-141B shelters could be cooled sufficiently with the blowers by laying two layers of sandbags, a layer of PSP and then two more layers of sandbags on top of the shelter. Revetments built of empty mortar boxes filled with sand were placed around the shelter. Air conditioning of shelters is not a necessity.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS: Where equipment shelters and vans are not protected by wooden cover that the above method be used to cool and protect them.

d. Organization. None

e. Training. None

f. Logistics.

(a) OBSERVATION: Each dial telephone exchange is required to stock approximately 1100 lines of repair parts per letter 1st Signal Brigade SSCPV-NG-LO-M, 24 Feb 69, subject: Repair Parts Listing for Stromberg Carlson Dial Central Office and Dial Telephone Exchange.

(b) EVALUATION: Letter above requires that each DCO maintain all repair parts listed for one year regardless of demand experience. Approximately 9 months of experience at the Qui Nhon DCO has shown that many items are overstocked. Two examples are various resistors and relay armatures. For the entire PLL the only items in great demand were switchboard cords, switchboard plugs, operator headsets, assorted fuses and dials for switchboards.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS: That a study be made of use of PLL items at all DCO's in order to adjust DCO PLL's to reflect actual demands.

g. Communications:

(1) Cable Pressurization

(a) OBSERVATION: A great deal of manpower is expended in locating troubles which occur on buried cable plants. Troubles such as wet sections or leaking blocks are difficult to locate on PIC cable and extensive excavation is usually required before service can be restored.

(b) EVALUATION: Present practices of installing buried plants do not include pressurization of cable which would greatly reduce the incidence of troubles due to water. Pressure fault location tests, and a system of blocks and pressure bypasses at each splice, would significantly reduce the incidence of wet cables and would simplify fault location.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That either aerial construction or pressurized buried construction be adopted as standards in cable construction.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
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(2) VHF Frequency Planning

(a) OBSERVATION: Area VHF frequency planning was found to be more effective if propagation characteristics of different VHF frequency bands are incorporated into planning techniques. Accepted techniques usually consider only the effects of mutual interference.

(b) EVALUATION: To plan VHF frequency assignments for an area, each system is classified as short line-of-sight, long line-of-sight, short obstructed path, or long obstructed path. "D" band is assigned to all short line-of-sight paths; "C" band to long line-of-sight paths, "B" band to short obstructed paths, and "A" band to long obstructed paths. Experience has shown that these frequency ranges are most suitable to these path characteristics.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That VHF frequency planning doctrine include assignment of frequency bands in accordance with path characteristics.

(3) Use of RF Patch Panel to Enable Primary and Backup Equipment to Use the Same Antenna:

(a) OBSERVATION: It has been noted at many signal sites that it is impossible to move the antenna coaxial cable to the backup transmitters and receivers because the 80 foot lead-in is only long enough to reach the primary set of equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: The basic cause of the above problem is the height of the antenna tower. An RF patching panel could be constructed near the equipment shelter. The RG-11 coaxial from the antenna would terminate on this panel. RG-8 coaxial would leave the panel and terminate on the primary and backup equipment. Short pieces of RG-11 or RG-8 could be used for patching equipment to the antenna.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That where antenna coaxial cable is not long enough to reach backup equipment the above system be used.

h. Materiel. None

i. Other. None

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as

Dale F. Stuart
DALE F. STUART
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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- 1 - CG 73rd Sig Bn, APO 96312
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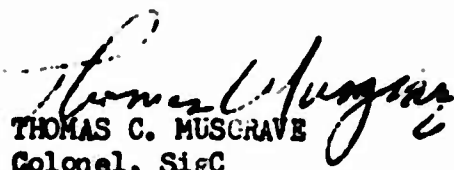
SCCPV-NG (9 Nov 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65, (R2)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96240 27 November 1969

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the basic report and concurs with the information contained therein with the following comments and/or exceptions:

Paragraph 1d(2)(b), page 4. Reference is made to problems at the Qui Nhon Dial Telephone Exchange due to faulty wiring. The initial wiring was done by the Gustav Hirsh Organization, which has maintenance responsibility for one year from the date of cutover.


THOMAS C. MUSGRAVE
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

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- 5 - CO, 41st Signal Bn, APO 96238

SCCPV-OP-AD (9 Nov 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters 41st Signal Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 12 December 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHQC-DST, APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. The following comments are made:

a. Reference item "Personnel", Para 1c(3), Page 2: MOS 31M, 32D, 51L remain consistently short throughout the Brigade. Input of these MOSs continues at a slow rate of fill. Since the reporting period the overall posture of each of the MOSs has improved slightly in view of an increased PST extensions. It is anticipated that our strength in these MOSs should remain stable within the next few months. With continuing emphasis at Group level to cross/re-train personnel coupled with continued monitoring of assignments in each of the MOSs, the 21st Signal Group should retain sufficient assigned personnel in each of the MOSs to effectively continue the mission. MOSs 63 A&B, 71L and 76Y as of 30 Nov 69 for the 21st Signal Group has reached the authorization for the Group.

b. Reference item "Logistics", Para 1g(2), Page 5: In as much as many of the communications outages are caused by organic generator power failures, it is suggested that the QA Team be augmented with a power generation specialist knowledgeable in preventive maintenance.

c. Reference item "Cooling Equipment Shelters or Vans", Para 2c(1), Page 5: Communications shelters are not constructed to withstand significant weight on the top. The suggestion to insulate the assemblage is valid but care must be taken that in doing so the shelter is not damaged.

d. Reference item "Logistics", Para 2f, Page 6: This headquarters is evaluating the use of PLL items at all DCO's in order to determine actual critical items and actual demands.

e. Reference item "Logistics", Para 2f(c), Page 6: New Prescribed Load Lists are currently being established based on maintenance capabilities and density of equipment installed at each specific dial telephone exchange (DTE). Action is being taken to provide the listing to the Units no later than 1 Jan 70.

f. Reference item "Communications", Para 2g(1), Page 6:

(1) Pressurization of buried plant should be utilized wherever the importance and expected tenure of the plant justify the cost involved.

SCCPV-OP-AD


12 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters 41st Signal
Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

We do not concur in adopting either aerial or pressurized buried plant as standards but prefer to let each situation dictate its own best solution.

(2) This headquarters is now in the process of submitting Non-Tactical Telecommunications Requests to cover pressurization of several plants. Efforts are underway at this time to purge and pressurize part of the plant at Phu Tai.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


T. E. MULLENNIEX
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

CF:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240
Commanding Officer, 41st Signal Battalion, APO 96238

AVHQC-DST (9 Nov 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 17 JAN 1970

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558


1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters, 41st Signal Battalion (CA) and comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "VHF Frequency Planning", page 7, paragraph 2g(2); concur. VHF frequency planning doctrine includes the concepts recommended.

b. Reference item concerning "Use of RF Patch Panel to Enable Primary and Backup Equipment to Use the Same Antenna", page 7, paragraph 2g(3); nonconcur. RF patch panels are not desirable because of the unnecessary additional loss inserted into a transmission line. Suggest that backup equipment be placed so as to operate into the same transmission line as the primary equipment.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


C. E. MICHELS
MAJ AGC
Asst Adjutant General

Cy Furn:
41st Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

06 FEB 1970

SCCP-OP3 (9 Nov 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO San Francisco 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN:
GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Frank C. Mahin
FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
ACofS, G-3

CF: wo lrci
CG, USARV, APO 96375
CG, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384
CO, 21st Sig Gp (USASTRATCOM), APO 96240
CO, 41st Sig Bn (USASTRATCOM), APO 96238

GPOP-DT (9 Nov 69) 5th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 13 FEB 70

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications Command,
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CF:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO (9 Nov 69) 6th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 41st Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort
Huachuca, Arizona 85613 1 2 [unclear]

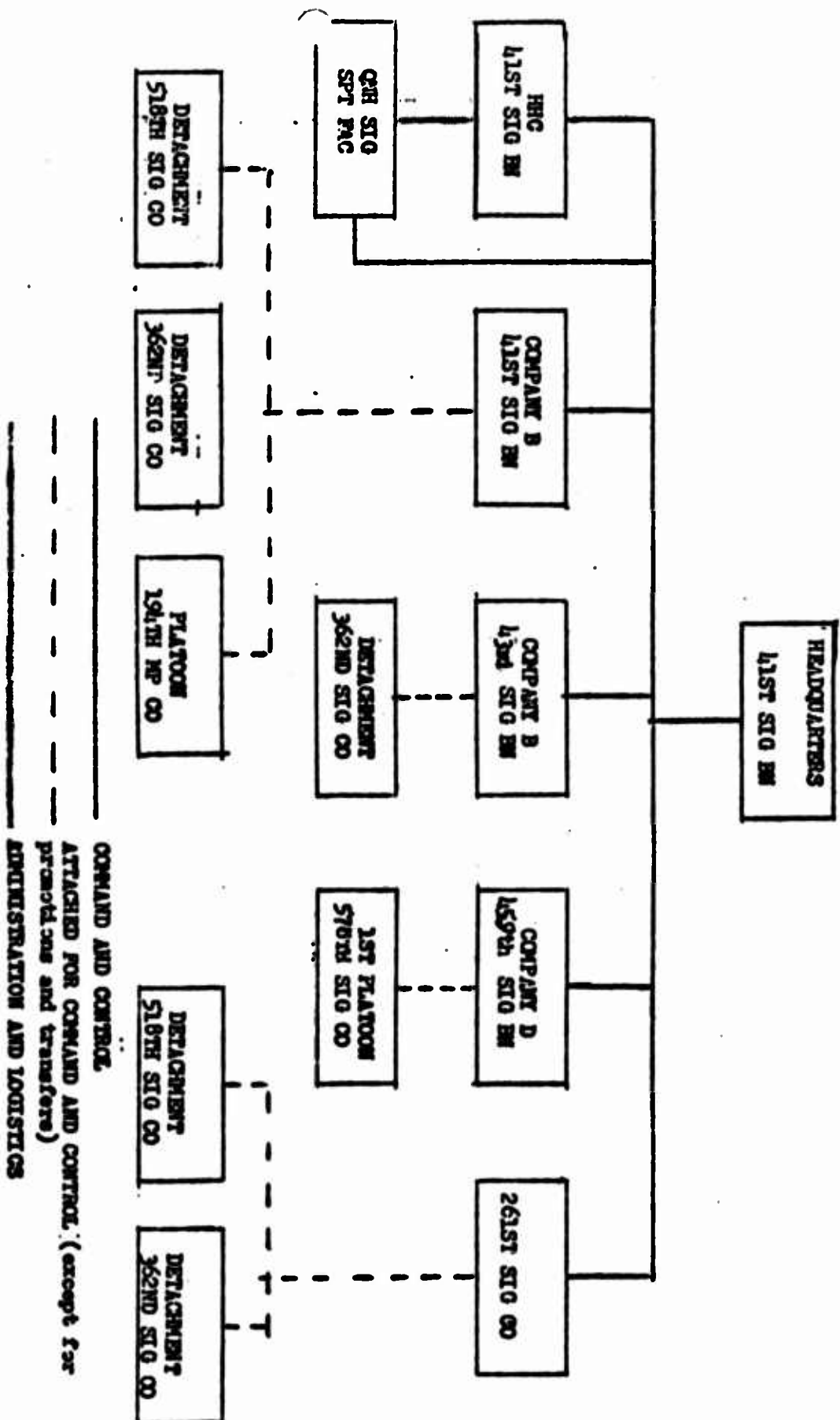
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

M. G. Alderson
for

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART
1ST SIGNAL BATTALION (CA)**



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CO, 41st Signal Battalion		
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